

please for the adoption of committee amendments. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Now the bill. Senator Cullan, do you wish to speak?

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, briefly to explain the bill. Senator Fenger's, I think, explanation of the committee amendments provided much of the information to you about the bill. I would like to make a couple of brief points. In seven sessions that I have been involved in, regular sessions, there have been many, many emergency medical services bills that have been introduced. I am proud to say that LB 254 is the first one that I have seen that hasn't been opposed by the volunteer fire departments in the State of Nebraska and that probably is about as much as I really need to say because naturally all of us are concerned about maintaining the integrity and the freedom of those volunteer fire departments to function without excessive or unnecessary or burdensome regulation and LB 254, I think, is a bill that they have not opposed and I think that should put many of us at ease concerning the proposal. LB 254 is really the work of Dr. Anthony Carnazzo of Omaha who has worked in this field for many, many years. Dr. Carnazzo died of cancer, interestingly enough, just a couple of days before the public hearing on this proposal. But what the proposal does is to make many, many changes in Nebraska's Emergency Medical Services Act and in the Emergency Medical Care Act relating to the way that we license these individuals. The first thing that the bill does is to eliminate a requirement that an emergency medical technician level-I receive a certificate before they move to the next level and that eliminates some unnecessary paperwork and some redundant educational steps in the process. The bill also creates a category of emergency medical technician-II. Currently no individuals in the state have sought certification at the level which is currently in statutes and so we redefined the EMT-II, lowered the number of hours of training required for the EMT-II and this should significantly increase the practicality and utilization of EMT-II's in the State of Nebraska. We also create an EMT-D which is the defibrillator which is basically an EMT-II with some additional education in defibrillation. Senator Hefner has already explained this tremendous importance of allowing defibrillation to be used in the State of Nebraska. I would also cite a Seattle study which indicates that there is as much as a thirty percent reduction in fatalities, in